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**Hughes: Keep '74 rule,
'nothing has changed'**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Former Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa said "nothing has changed" in the last six years and he believes strongly that a law he authored in 1974 requiring reports to Congress by the CIA should be kept in force.

Hughes, who retired from the Senate that year to devote all his time to religious work, said he disagrees with efforts by the Carter administration and by a growing number of senators to dismantle the so-called Hughes Rule, which provides that Congress must be informed of certain CIA activities and which stipulates that covert intelligence activity abroad can be undertaken only if the president certifies each operation as "important to the national security."

In his State of the Union message, President Carter asked for "quick passage of a new charter" for the CIA, and said, "We need to remove unwarranted restraints on our ability to collect intelligence and to tighten our controls on sensitive intelligence information."

The moves by the administration and by members of Congress to remove controls from the CIA have been spurred by the situations in Iran and in Afghanistan. There is a widespread perception that in both cases there have been failures of American intelligence, and there is increasing support for "unleashing" the CIA.

But Hughes, reached by telephone at his home on the eastern shore of Maryland, said, "Nothing has changed. There's got to be civilian control of that agency. I'd like assurance that the CIA is responsive to our laws."

The political climate in 1974, when Hughes successfully pushed the CIA rule that eventually was adopted as part of that year's Foreign Assistance Act, was markedly different from today's.

There had been widespread revelations about CIA involvement in Chile, in domestic spying cases and in drug experimentation programs. Also, it had been revealed that the CIA had hired gangsters to deal with Fidel Castro in the early 1960s and that some of its officials had proposed such things as putting poison powder in the Cuban leader's shoes or injecting his cigars with the organism that causes tuberculosis.